

Soybeans were basically mixed last week with the August contract coming under the most pressure. That contract took the hit based on bearish export numbers which implied that beans will need to average 9.7 million bushels for the next seven weeks of the 2003- 2004 marketing season. By the middle of this week things started to improve following a bullish NOPA June crush report of 102.4 million bushels being crushed. The market was expecting 99.5 million bushels. The harvest (November) contract was supported by forecasts of drier weather in the Midwest over the near-term. The July contract expired at noon on Wednesday and was 80 cents over the August contract. Thursday sent soybeans a bit lower due to the benign export sales number and decent growing weather. Weekly sales numbers were down about 4000 tons. Cash basis numbers will need to move higher before August futures will turn around and head higher and so cash trade is what nearby traders will be looking at. Cash soybean basis levels have dropped in most markets this week (I apologize for the lack of nearby prices this week). USDA projected a record crop in its report, but still lowered it from its June figures. Corn futures continued to see pressure last week but there was little change in our market picture. On Monday little happened because despite the fact that traders on the floor believed corn had fallen far enough they didn’t start to buy up contracts. The USDA did lower its export projections in Monday morning’s supply and demand report, dropping them by about 100 million bushels and ending stocks were raised by 90 million, but traders seemed to believe that this number will be raised again in the August report. The December contract shrugged off any weather pressure, trading higher midweek. Corn continues to trade in a consolidation pattern but it seems that most traders still believe that corn is oversold. Crop conditions are better, but the market is well aware that the projected record crop is far from being delivered. Bottoming action (chart language) is in place and prices will probably have to hold steady for the next couple of days before a rally might ignite – it could happen! Wheat was higher on Monday following the USDA report. Production was dropped 2 million bushels. HRW took a hit – down 32 million bushels from the June report. On Wednesday wheat finished higher on all three exchanges and funds started to buy up at the end of trading. They probably wished they hadn’t done that because Thursday’s export numbers were most disappointing at just 312 thousand (metric tons). There could be a meltdown in wheat if we see some fresh lows established. Be warned!

BASIS TABLE

LOCATION	CORN BASIS		SOYBEAN BASIS		WHEAT BASIS	
	CASH (Jul04)	NEW (Dec04)	CASH (Jul04)	NEW(Nov04)	CASH(Jul04)	NEW(Jul04)
Western MD	+74	n/a	n/a	n/a	-32	n/a
Central MD	+47	-7	n/a	-48	-2	n/a
Southern MD	+20	-14	n/a	-25	-40	n/a
Upper E. Sh	+25	-1	n/a	-25	-27	n/a
Lower E. Sh	+35	+4	n/a	-16	-21	n/a

WEEKLY CROP WEATHER SUMMARY

MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

There were 6.0 days suitable for field work for the week ending July 11, 2004. Corn and soybean fields are showing signs of stress from the lack of water in some areas of Maryland, especially on the Eastern Shore. Corn is now in the silking stage with 67 percent silked. A few fields have reached the dough stage of development. Many soybean fields are blooming and a few fields are beginning to set pods. Small grains harvest is complete for barley and wheat harvest should wrap up in the next two weeks.

CASH GRAINS - REGIONAL - (\$/bu)DEALERS AVERAGE CASH QUOTES								
Grade and Commodity	#2 Y Shelled Corn		#2 Yellow Soybeans		#2 Red Winter Wheat		#3 Barley	
Date	7/07	7/14	7/07	7/14	7/07	7/14	7/07	7/14
Western Md	3.24	3.21	8.84	8.60	3.15	3.13	2.19	2.23
Central MD	3.02	2.94	9.24	8.81	3.47	3.43	1.98	1.98
Southern MD	2.74	2.67	8.87	8.61	3.13	3.05	1.70	1.70
Upper E. Shore	2.79	2.72	8.92	8.66	3.14	3.18	1.80	1.80
Lower E. Shore	2.89	2.82	9.00	8.70	3.21	3.24	1.81	1.81

Soybean Meal	Lower Eastern Shore		Dealer’s Average Cash Quotes (\$/ton)		
Date	7/07	7/14	Date	7/07	7/14
48% Soybean Meal	389.00	346.00	44% Soybean Meal	377.00	334.00

FORWARD CONTRACT PRICE-REGIONAL (\$/BU) for Harvest delivery Dealer’s Avg Quotes								
Grade and Commodity	#2 Y Shelled Corn		#2 Yellow Soybeans		#2 Red Winter Wheat		#3 Barley	
Date	7/07	7/14	7/07	7/14	7/07	7/14	7/07	7/14
Western Md	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----
Central MD	2.64	2.56	6.26	6.20	3.47	----	1.80	----
Southern MD	2.54	2.49	6.36	6.43	3.13	----	----	----
Upper E Shore	2.67	2.62	6.36	6.43	3.14	----	1.80	----
Lower E Shore	2.72	2.67	6.45	6.52	3.21	----	1.81	----

GRAIN FUTURES- Chicago Board of Trade (\$/bu) Settle - Jul 14, 2002					
Corn		Soybeans		Wheat	
Jul	242.00	Jul	862.50	Jul	337.00
Sep	246.50	Aug	780.75	Sep	345.00
Dec	254.00	Sep	681.50	Dec	357.75
Mr05	261.50	Nov	668.25	Mr05	368.00
May	267.25	Ja05	672.00	May	371.50
Dec	263.25	Mar	672.00		
				Soybean Meal <sup>1</sup>	
Jul		Jul		Jul	285.00
Sep		Aug		Aug	269.00
Dec		Sep		Sep	239.00
Mr05		Oct		Oct	214.20
May		Dec		Dec	210.20
Dec		Ja05		Ja05	210.50

<sup>1</sup> \$/ton

HAY AND STRAW										
New Holland, PA - \$/ton - Jul 12, 2004 - 50 Loads										
Alfalfa		Mixed		Timothy		Orchardgrass		Straw		
		30.00-200.00		65.00-180.00		50.00-75.00		120.00-150.00		
Westminster, MD - \$/bale - Jul 13, 2004 - 77 Lots										
Alfalfa		Alfalfa Mix		Timothy		Timothy Mix		Grass Mix		
1.00-4.20		1.20-3.20		1.20-3.40		1.00-4.00		1.60-4.20		
Straw										
2.20-2.80										
POULTRY (Grade A) - Week Ending Jul 17, 2004										
				Current Week		Week Ago		Month Ago		
				Year Ago						
NY Wtd Avg. (Fryers)				83.33		82.79		82.72		
12 City Composite				82.26		83.44		82.12		
								59.41		
								62.44		
LAMBS - Westminster, MD - \$/cwt - Jul 14, 2004										
30- 40 lbs		82.50-107.50		Yearlings		90.00-138.00				
60- 70 lbs		85.00-125.00								
80- 90 lbs		85.00-127.50		Sheep		100-300 lbs		20.00- 58.00		
100-120 lbs		97.50-112.50								
TERMINAL MARKETS HOGS - Jul 15, 2004					DIRECT MARKET HOGS - Westminster, MD - Jul 14, 2004					
Base Price Range (\$/cwt)		Carcass Basis		Sows (1-3)		U.S. #1		215-260 lbs		
a.m.		Base 185 lb Hog		300-449 lbs		Sows		300-400 lbs		
								42.25-45.25		
Iowa, Minn		73.36-79.50		47.87-56.46				500-600 lbs		
Eastern Cornbelt		70.00-76.84		48.42-56.00		Millsboro, DE Market Hogs - (\$/cwt) -		Next Sale Jul 20, 2004		
FEEDER PIGS - (\$/cwt) -										
Gumboro, DE - Jul 13, 2004					New Holland, PA - Jul 14, 2004 -					
Head:		Trend:			Head: 428		Trend: None			
					35-40 lbs		82.00 - 95.00			
		Next Sale Jul 20, 2004			50 lbs		110.00			
CATTLE-LIVE FUTURES-Chicago Mercantile Exchange (\$/cwt) - Jul 14, 2004					HOGS-LEAN FUTURES-Chicago Mercantile Exchange (\$/cwt) - Jul 14, 2004					
Aug	84.42	Fb05	88.30	Jul	79.42	Dec	62.77			
Oct	82.27	Apr	85.97	Aug	75.65	Fb05	60.97			
Dec	87.35	Jun	81.00	Oct	67.35	Apr	60.70			
STOCKER-FEEDER CATTLE - (\$/cwt)										
Winchester, VA - Jul 12, 2004					Westminster, MD - Jul 14, 2004					
Steers	300-400 lbs	130.00-136.00			Steers (M&L)	200-300 lbs	95.00-101.00			
	400-500 lbs	117.00-120.00				400-500 lbs	89.00-101.00			
	500-600 lbs	117.00-120.50				Heifers	200-300 lbs	80.00-109.00		
	600-700 lbs	109.50-112.50					400-500 lbs	86.00- 90.00		
Heifers	300- 400 lbs	103.00-128.00			Returned to farm	600-700 lbs	57.00- 87.00			
	400- 500 lbs	109.50-121.00				Holstein Bulls	#1	80- 90 lbs	102.50-145.00	
	500- 600 lbs	108.00-115.00						90-100 lbs	120.00-180.00	
	600- 700 lbs	96.00-113.75						100-110 lbs	120.00-180.00	
							#2	80-100 lbs	77.50-120.00	
					Jersey-Weak & Small		35.00- 77.50			
					Holstein Heifers		#1	240.00-415.00		
							#2	100.00-230.00		
					Beef X Bulls & Heifers		105.00-182.00			
Lancaster, New Holland & Vintage - Week Ending - Jul 17, 2004										
Bull, Holstein	90-120 lbs	130.00-159.00			Plainer	90-120 lbs	131.00-144.00			
Heifers, Hols	90-120 lbs	450.00-540.00			Plainer	90-120 lbs	300.00-400.00			
SLAUGHTER CATTLE (\$/cwt)										
Westminster, MD - Jul 14, 2004										
Fed Steers					Fed Heifers					
Ch	80.00-85.75			Ch	1100-1350 lbs		80.00-89.50			
Select	58.25-78.00			Select			64.00-79.00			
Cows				Utility			55.50-59.25			
Hi-dressing	55.00-54.00									
Breakers	50.00-54.00									
Boners	42.00-52.00									
Thin & Weak	40.00-DOWN									
Lancaster, New Holland & Vintage - Week Ending - Jul 17, 2004										
Steers, Ch 2-3	1025-1495 lbs			82.50-86.00	Steady to \$1 lower					
Heifers, Ch	1025-1282 lbs			79.00-80.50	Steady to \$1 lower					
Cows, Breakers 75-80 pct lean				55.00-59.25	Steady to \$1 lower					
Bulls, YG 1	1120-2065 lbs			64.00-68.75	Steady					
Vealers, S/G	90- 110 lbs			79.00-85.00	None					

For more information about this report, call 410-841-5740 or write:

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